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## A Real-Life Study of Alemtuzumab: Impact of Previous Therapies and Washout Period on Disease Activity

**This is a pre print version of the following article:**

*Original Citation:*

*Availability:*

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1757464> since 2020-10-01T18:14:12Z

*Publisher:*

LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS

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## Abstract

**Objective:** To evaluate the Annualized Relapse Rate (ARR) during washout and Alemtuzumab treatment in a real-life setting.

**Background:** The effect of washout duration from previous Disease Modifying Treatment (DMT) before Alemtuzumab start is unknown. No data are currently available on the effect of Alemtuzumab when it is used after Fingolimod (FTY) or Natalizumab (NAT).

**Design/Methods:** Patients who started alemtuzumab were included in this retrospective multicenter study. Previous therapy, washout duration and relapse occurrence were retrospectively assessed. Relapse rate in each epoch was analyzed with a negative binomial model. Time to the first activity event was analyzed with a Cox model.

**Results:** We included 159 patients from 12 MS centers in Italy (Age:37.6 years, SD:9.3; 73.6% females, median EDSS:3.5, mean disease duration:9.8 years, median follow-up 319 days). Pre Alemtuzumab DMTs were: FTY (72 patients), NAT (44 patients) other (31 patients), DMT-naïve (12 patients). Mean washout before Alemtuzumab was 132 days (SD:191). 54 relapses occurred during the washout period in 36 patients (ARR=0.83). Mean time to first relapse was  $147 \pm 209$  days (range 0–1078) from the end of the last DMT. A longer washout period was associated with higher ARR during Alemtuzumab ( $p=0.044$ ) independent of previous therapy ( $p=0.43$ ). ARR in the year pre-discontinuation of last treatment was 1.18 (SD: 1.37), and decreased to 0.14 (SD:0.45) during Alemtuzumab treatment. The effect was independent of previous treatment ( $p=0.43$ ), that did not impact on time to first event ( $p=0.85$ ; either relapse/disease progression/MRI), as did not washout time ( $p=0.70$ ), or their interaction ( $p=0.78$ ).

Pre-FTY patients showed a pre-Alemtuzumab ARR of 1.25 (SD:1.03) and post-Alemtuzumab of 0.183 (SD:0.47). Similarly pre-NAT patients showed an ARR of 0.58 (SD:0.94) and 0.16 (SD:0.53) respectively.

**Conclusions:** In this cohort, previous DMTs did not influence the ARR during Alemtuzumab, that was constantly well controlled. The longer the washout, the higher the ARR, regardless of prior therapy.

**Study Supported by:**

The study did not receive any formal support. The authors wish to thank Novartis Pharma for supporting the meetings of the group. Novartis was not involved in this project and did not have any access to the data.

**Disclosure:** Dr. Sacca has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Novartis, Almirall, Biogen, Merck Serono, Teva, Mylan, Forward Pharma. Dr. Sormani has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Received compensation for serving on Scientific Advisory Boards from TEVA, Genzyme, Novartis, Roche, and Vertex; funding for travel or speaker honoraria from Merck Serono, TEVA, Genzyme, Novartis, Biogen, and Roche; consultancy from Merck Serono, Biogen,. Dr. Signori has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Novartis. Dr. Lanzillo has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Merck, Novartis, Biogen, Genzyme, Teva and Almirall. Dr. Baroncini has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Almirall, Teva, Genzyme. Dr. Annovazzi has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Novartis, Merck Serono, Genzyme, Biogen and Teva. Dr. Signoriello has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Almirall, Biogen, Genzyme, Novartis and Teva. Dr. Laroni has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Merck Serono, Novartis, Biogen, Genzyme and Teva. Dr. Capobianco has nothing to disclose. Dr. Sartori has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Novartis, Teva, Merck-Serono and Genzyme. Dr. La Gioia has nothing to disclose. Dr. Maniscalco has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Merck Serono, Biogen and TEVA. Dr. Cordioli has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with MerckSerono and Novartis. Dr. Rasia has nothing to disclose. Dr. Clerico has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Novartis; Genzyme, Merck and Biogen. Dr. Fenu has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Novartis, Merck Serono, Teva and Biogen. Dr. Cocco has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Almirall, Bayer, Biogen, Merck, Novartis, Genzyme and Teva. Dr. Frau has received personal compensation for consulting,

serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Merck Serono, Biogen, Genzyme, Teva.